

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03

AGR-20 LAB-06 PA-04 TAR-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SWF-02

NEA-14 DRC-01 /248 W

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R 061620Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4092

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AUSMISSION GENEVA 1191

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG PROPOSAL ON DUTY-FREE IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
FROM IRAN

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REF: STATE 164851

1. ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT PROPOSAL WITH MFA DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION VAN SCHAIK AND ACTING DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION VAN GEEN. BOTH ASSERT THAT GON SHARES WITH ALL OTHER EC MEMBERS EXCEPT FRG DETERMINATION TO BLOCK FRG PROPOSAL FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF IRANIAN OIL ALONG LINES PUT FORWARD AT JULY 22-23 EC COUNCIL MEETING. BOTH ASSUME THAT SINCE FRG HAS APPARENTLY MADE SOME KIND OF COMMITMENT TO TEHRAN ON OIL IMPORTS, MATTER WILL BE RAISED AGAIN IN AUTUMN THOUGH PERHAPS IN DIFFERENT CONTEXT. VAN GEEN NOTED THAT HE AND SOME OF HIS GON COLLEAGUES SUSPECT THAT REAL FRG PURPOSE MAY BE TO SET STAGE FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF IMPORTS FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

2. VAN GEEN SAID GON OBJECTION TO FRG PROPOSAL IS BASED ON THREE GROUND: (1) THAT IT IS IN VIOLATION OF GATT, (2) THAT IT VIOLATES UNDERSTANDING AGAINST PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS AGREED UPON IN ECG, AND (3) THAT IT COULD CAUSE TRADE DAMAGE TO DUTCH REFINING INDUSTRY WHICH RELIES HEAVILY ON GERMAN MARKET.

3. VAN GEEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE ARE ELEMENTS (UNIDENTIFIED) WITHIN GON WHO FEEL THAT SPECIAL TARIFF TREATMENT OF GOODS GENERATED UNDER INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS IS PERFECTLY LOGICAL TECHNIQUE TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF THAT COOPERATION. EVEN THESE ELEMENTS RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT PETROLEUM SECTOR POSES SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF CONSIDERABLE DELICACY AND THAT FRG/ITALIAN PROPOSAL WAS SO OPEN-ENDED THAT IT COULD CAUSE EMBARRASSING PRECEDENTS.

4. VAN GEEN ASSURED US THAT US GOVERNMENT POSITION CONVEYED TO HIM (BASED ON REFTEL) WOULD BE PASSED TO INTERESTED GON AGENCIES.
GOULD

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